

General Directions for Computing Comparability

An LEA having **multiple attendance areas** may receive funds under Title I only if State and local funds are used to provide services in Title I schools which, taken as a whole, are at least comparable to services provided in schools within the district which are not receiving Title I funds. Where all school attendance areas in the LEA are designated as Title I schools, the LEA may receive Title I funds only if State and local funds are used to provide services which, taken as a whole, are substantially comparable in each school.

LEAs having multiple attendance areas serving same or similar grade spans must demonstrate compliance with comparability requirements annually. For LEAs having Title I and non-Title I attendance areas, comparisons will be made between each Title I attendance area and the average for the non-Title I attendance areas. If all attendance areas in the LEA are Title I, the LEA may calculate ratios for the group of schools with the lowest percentage of children from low-income families. The ratio for each Title I school would then be compared with the average calculated for the group of less economically deprived schools.

An LEA has two options for demonstrating comparability:

1. Comparing Student/Instructional Staff FTE Ratios - Comparability is achieved when the student/instructional staff FTE ratios in the Title I schools do not exceed 110% of the average for non-Title I schools; or
2. Comparing Student/Instructional Staff Salary Ratios - Comparability is achieved when the average per-pupil salary expenditure in Title I schools is at least 90% of the average in non-Title I schools.

Note: It is not necessary to complete both options. Option 2 is typically only used when compliance can not be demonstrated using option 1.

For the purpose of determining comparability, an LEA **must** exclude:

1. staff salary differentials for years of employment; and
2. buildings with 100 or fewer students.

For the purpose of determining comparability, an LEA **may** exclude:

1. state and local funds expended for:
 - a. excess costs of providing services to children with disabilities as determined by the LEA; and
 - b. bilingual education for children of limited English proficiency.
2. unpredictable changes in student enrollment or personnel assignments that occur after the beginning of a school year.

The following forms are designed to assist LEAs in the computations necessary for demonstrating comparability. The Detailed School Data worksheet (Comparability Report, Step 2) provides instructions for both options in demonstrating comparability.